

## Take Heed Lest You Fall!

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by Wayne Goff

**“Black ice”** instills fear in the heart of anyone who has been its victim. It is invisible, slippery, and deadly. One of winter’s greatest dangers is thinking the road in front of you is clear and clean when in reality it is covered with an invisible sheet of slick ice. Many people have fallen on its sidewalks, wrecked on its curvy roads, and broken bones when they thought all was well. The sudden surprise does nothing to offset the damage.

The inspired apostle Paul gives us a spiritual warning of which “black ice” reminded me: **“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall”** (1 Corinthians 10:12). The context of chapter ten shows that Paul is using Israel in the wilderness as an example of those who fell (died) while thinking they were fine!

Some of the things that caused their fall are just as deadly today: idolatry, sexual sins, tempting God, and murmuring or complaining (vv. 6-11). Most people today do not think of these sins as something eternally damning, but God says that they are just that! **Take heed!**

Here are some examples of those who “think” everything is fine at the verge of disaster!

- *“For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then **sudden destruction** comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape”* (1 Thessalonians 5:2–3). There will be no warning or advance signs to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Our premillennial friends who think so have misinterpreted Matthew 24:1-34 and give others the false hope of predicting the “end times.” **Sudden destruction without escape** is what is reserved for the unbeliever, the impenitent, or the apostate.
- *“Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘**Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation**’”* (2 Peter 3:3–4). Scoffers who mock the idea of the Lord’s second coming do so primarily so that they can enjoy their lustful living without guilt. They argue that all things have **always** been as they are now, and therefore there will be no future cataclysmic destruction! The apostle Peter explained that these scoffers *“willfully forget”* (v. 5) the flood of Noah’s day. Do not pay attention to the scoffers because their “science” (falsely so-called) does not hold water!
- *“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **and did not know until the flood came and took them all away**, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be”* (Matthew 24:37–39). Just prior to the world-wide flood of Noah’s time everything appeared to be normal! After all, there had **never** been a world-wide flood before! Yes, there had been preaching about such an event (see 1 Pet. 3:18-20), but only eight people believed the message! Surely the majority cannot be wrong! But the flood took them all away, along with their world, their possessions, and their prejudices.

Bible student, can you think of other examples? Perhaps so, and if you can, then add them to the list and share them with your acquaintances. Maybe, just maybe, **they** will listen!

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